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News Release

ICE arrests five fugitives in the greater San Antonio area

SAN ANTONIO — Five fugitive aliens working in a cabinet shop west of San Antonio were arrested Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers.

Among those arrested was Roberto Saucedo-Gutierrez, 62, a citizen of Mexico and a convicted felon whose criminal record includes a 10-year prison sentence for narcotics trafficking and unlawfully carrying a weapon. Saucedo-Gutierrez was ordered removed by an immigration judge in December 2004. He appealed the judge's order, but lost the appeal. Instead of leaving the U.S. as required by law, he absconded and became a fugitive.

Also arrested was Jose Alfredo-Bautista, 34, a citizen of Mexico. Local police arrested him in October 2003 for interfering with a 911 emergency call. He was found guilty and served a sixmonth jail term. Three years later he was convicted of aggravated assault, served a 38-day jail term and paid a \$500 fine. A federal immigration judge issued Alfredo-Bautista a final order of removal Feb. 25, 2005, but he failed to leave the U.S.

ICE agents also arrested three other Mexican nationals who failed to depart the United States after being issued final orders of removal.

"The ICE San Antonio Field office is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's legal immigration system," said Marc J. Moore, ICE field office director for detention and removal operations in San Antonio. "Those hiding from justice in our communities are on notice that our officers are working day and night to find you."

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These fugitive arrests are part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

The Office of <u>Detention and Removal Operations (DRO)</u> focuses on promoting public safety and national security by ensuring that all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed from the United States as expeditiously as possible.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.